

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)



Date of mailing  
(day/month/year) 7 May 2004 (07.05.2004)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

TOC/07197.03

REPLY DUE

within 2 months/days from  
the above date of mailing

International application No.

PCT/SG 2003/000090

International filing date (day/month/year)

17 April 2003 (17.04.2003)

Priority date (day/month/year)

18 April 2002 (18.04.2002)

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

IPC<sup>7</sup>: H01R 13/72, 25/00

Applicant

POWER BRIDGE (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD.

1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
  - I. ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II. ☐ Priority
  - III. ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV. ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V. ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI. ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII. ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII. ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.
 

**When?** See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

**How?** By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

**Also** For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.  
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4bis.  
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

**If no reply is filed,** the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 18.08.2004.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT  
Austrian Patent Office  
Dresdner Straße 87, A-1200 Vienna

Authorized officer

KOSKARTI F.

Facsimile No. 1/53424/200

Telephone No. 1/53424/326

Form PCT/IPEA/408 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

# WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/SG 03/00090-0

## I. Basis of the opinion

### 1. With regard to the elements of the international application:\*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , filed with the letter of

☐ the claims:

pages , as originally filed

pages , as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages , filed with the demand

pages , filed with the letter of

☐ the drawings:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , filed with the letter of

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages , as originally filed

pages , filed with the demand

pages , filed with the letter of

### 2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language \_\_\_\_\_ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

### 3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

### 4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages

☐ the claims, Nos.

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig

### 5. ☐ This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

\* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as „originally filed“.

**WRITTEN OPINION**

International application No.  
PCT/SG 03/00090-0

|  |             |             |     |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----|
| <b>V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</b>   |             |             |     |
| 1. Statement   | Novelty (N) | Claims 1-5  | YES |
|  |             | Claims ---- | NO  |
| Inventive step (IS)  |             | Claims ---- | YES |
|  |             | Claims 1-5  | NO  |
| Industrial applicability (IA)  |             | Claims 1-5  | YES |
|  |             | Claims ---- | NO  |
| Citations and explanations   |             |             |     |
| <p>The following documents have been cited in the Search Report:</p> <p>D1: US 5071367 A</p> <p>D2: EP 1233481 A1</p> <p>D3: WO 2002/33791 A1</p> <p>Document D1 shows a power strip with adjustable cord comprising the following features (see figure 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• power strip with a plurality of sockets</li> <li>• a housing made of two main hollow parts (62, 64)</li> <li>• whereby the housing is rectangular with rounded edges</li> <li>• an extension cord (12, fig. 1) and a plug (16, fig. 1)</li> <li>• whereby the larger (top) part of the housing has a top, 2 end and 2 side walls</li> <li>• whereby the smaller (bottom) part of the housing has a bottom wall which also accommodates 2 groove parts (60) which form a ring-shaped intermediate wall (receiving track) between the top and bottom parts of the housing to accommodate the extension cord in single file</li> <li>• the bottom part comprises retainer means, called nubs (98, fig. 6).</li> </ul> <p>D1 does not disclose a smaller bottom part which comprises a ring-like intermediate wall to accommodate the cord. Thus all features of claim 1 are disclosed in D1 except the feature that the bottom part has a ring-like intermediate wall to accommodate the cord. To form the bottom part and the ring-like intermediate wall of one or several parts is regarded to be within the scope of technician skilled in the art. Thus claim 1 is not considered inventive with respect of D1.</p> <p>Since the length of the cord is also dependent on the task to solve, this feature is also regarded to be within the scope of technician skilled in the art. Thus claim 2 is not considered inventive with respect of D1.</p> |             |             |     |

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**Supplemental Box**

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (page 1)

The retainer means, called nubs (98, fig. 6), form a L-shaped figure with the walls of the groove parts (60) and cover partly the opening of the receiving track. The nubs are integrally formed on the bottom part of the housing (see fig. 6). Thus claims 3 and 5 are not considered inventive with respect of D1.

As above discussed, the power strip of D1 discloses a receiving track formed by 2 groove parts (60) and retainer means, called nubs (98, fig. 6). Thus claim 4 is not considered inventive with respect of D1.

Documents D2 and D3 disclose the state of the art without anticipating the subject matter as disclosed in the application by claims 1 to 5, because they do not disclose split and hollow housings, nor retainer means.

Summarizing, the subject matter of claims 1 to 5 is not regarded inventive with respect of D1.

Industrial applicability is given.